

**To:** Hammerschmidt, Ron[Hammerschmidt.Ron@epa.gov]  
**From:** Hood, Rich  
**Sent:** Mon 6/17/2013 8:49:46 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Associated Press Question  
RE: Associated Press Question

Ron,

Are you ok with our giving this response to AP?

Rich Hood

Associate Regional Administrator

For Media, Intergovernmental Relations

913-551-7906

(cell) 913-339-8327

**From:** Asher, Audrey  
**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2013 3:28 PM  
**To:** Tapia, Cecilia; Whitley, Christopher; Hammerschmidt, Ron; Hood, Rich  
**Subject:** RE: Associated Press Question

EPA has authority to conduct removal actions based on an evaluation of eight criteria set forth in the National Contingency Plan (40 CFR 300.415). This evaluation guides the agency in determining the appropriateness of a removal action. These response actions are generally limited to shorter term actions (1 year or less) which cost less than \$2 million and where there is risk to public health or the environment. A majority of R7's response actions pertain to drums of hazardous substances disposed of improperly, contaminated water supplies, mainly private wells, yards contaminated with lead from historic mining operations and mercury releases where human contact is probable.

The site is presently fenced and does not pose a direct contact threat to members of the public, the drinking water supply is not contaminated, and there is no data to suggest that the community is currently being exposed to radiological contaminants from OU 1. Based on such conditions,

EPA has not determined this case meets the removal action criteria.